

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02918 01 OF 02 071642Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
EB-08 AID-05 SY-05 /094 W
-----041833 071658Z /45

O R 071550Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5357
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 2918

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
SUBJ: REACTION TO DECISION TO LIFT THE EMBARGO

REF: ATHENS 2857

1. THE APRIL 6 HIRC HEARINGS ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S
PROPOSALS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE, TURKEY,
AND CYPRUS ARE THE DOMINANT STORY IN THE GREEK MEDIA
TODAY (APRIL 7). THE OPPOSITION PRESS IS PITCHING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02918 01 OF 02 071642Z

ITS STORIES AND HEADLINES TO HIT BOTH AT THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION AND THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT, ACCUSING
THE FORMER FOR BEING "ANTI-GREEK" AND FAULTING THE
LATTER FOR FAILING TO ACT TO PROTECT GREEK INTERESTS.
THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS, TELEVISION, AND RADIO,
MAKING THE MOST OUT OF WHAT IS FOR THEM A DIFFICULT
SITUATION, ARE FOCUSING HEAVILY ON CONGRESSIONAL

OPPOSITION TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE TURKISH EMBARGO AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY'S MORE HOPEFUL REMARKS ON CYPRUS AND HIS STATEMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY TO THE U.S. AND THE WEST, THE LATTER AN APPEAL TO THE GREEK SENSE OF REALPOLITIK.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, SECRETARY VANCE'S RESTATEMENT OF THE SO-CALLED "SECURITY GUARANTEES" FOR GREECE CONTAINED IN THE 1976 KISSINGER-BITSIOS EXCHANGE WAS NOT CARRIED BY THE WIRE SERVICES FROM WASHINGTON. AS A RESULT, IT HAS ONLY APPEARED IN THE TWO NEWSPAPERS (OPPOSITION TO VIMA AND PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS) TO WHICH WE MANAGED TO GET COPIES OF THE CRUCIAL PARAGRAPHS OF THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY LAST NIGHT. (VIMA'S SISTER PAPER TA NEA CARRIED THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 20 OF STATE 88830 IN A SUMMARY OF THE HIRC PROCEEDINGS.) WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOG IS BACKGROUNDING FRIENDLY JOURNALISTS NOW ON THAT PASSAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AND WE MAY SEE HEAVIER COVERAGE OF IT TOMORROW, AT LEAST IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE PRO-GOVERNMENT JOURNALIST HAS TOLD US HE CONSIDERS THE "GUARANTEES" THE "COUNTERWEIGHT" TO THE NEGATIVE ASPECT OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO.

3. THUS FAR MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN RESTRICTED LARGELY TO THE HEADLINES. A SAMPLE:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 02918 01 OF 02 071642Z

--- "VANCE APPEARED LIKE A NEW KISSINGER IN FAVOR OF TURKEY" (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA);
--- "VANCE'S SPEECH: AN IMPUDENT PROVOCATION OF GREECE AND CYPRUS" (LEFTIST, OPPOSITION TA NEA);
--- "SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE GREEK LOBBY: A BARRIER FOR CARTER ON THE EMBARGO" (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS);
--- "VANCE ASKS FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREEKS: THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO MUST BE STRENGTHENED" (PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI).

THE ONLY GENUINE EDITORIAL COMMENT WORTHY OF SPECIAL NOTE ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION WAS IN AKROPOLIS WHICH COUNSELED ITS READERS TO REACT COOLY AND UNEMOTIONALLY THINKING FIRST OF WHERE GREECE'S FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL INTERESTS LIE (THAT IS, WITH THE WEST AND THE U.S.).

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02918 02 OF 02 071652Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
EB-08 AID-05 SY-05 /094 W
-----041961 071658Z /45

O R 071550Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5358
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 2918

4. THE GENERAL TONE OF REPORTING ON CONGRESSIONAL
REACTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL SUGGESTS TO
THE GREEK AUDIENCE THAT CONGRESS WILL PROBABLY REJECT
THE REQUEST TO LIFT THE EMBARGO.
REMARKS OF ANTI-ADMINISTRATION CONGRESSMEN ARE GIVEN
A SPECIAL PROMINENCE IN THE MEDIA, WITH CONGRESSMAN
ROSENTHAL'S REPORTED STATEMENT, "WE ARE IN DANGER OF
LOSING GREECE", GAINING THE DISTINCTION OF A HEADLINE
IN LEFTIST, OPPOSITION ELEFTherOTYPiA.

5. ANTI-EMBARGO ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS GENERATED IN
CYPRUS ARE ALSO BEING GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02918 02 OF 02 071652Z

HERE. THE OPPOSITION TO CARAMANLIS IS NOTING THE
CONTRAST BETWEEN THE OUTSPOKEN CYPRIOT POSITION AND
THE RELATIVE SILENCE OF THE GOG, MAKING THE GOG'S
POSITION EVEN MORE UNCOMFORTABLE. THIS APPROACH IS

REFLECTED IN THE PRESS BY AVGHI (KKE-INTERIOR) WHICH
HEADLINED "SECRETARY VANCE ANTICIPATES THE TOLERANCE
OF ATHENS IN THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO".

6. SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED THE EMBASSY'S CATEGORICAL
DENIAL OF THE ELEFTRHEROS COSMOS REPORT (REFTEL) THAT
THE USG HAD COMPLAINED TO THE GOG OVER PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS' ALLEGED REFUSAL TO MEET DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER.
MCCLOSKEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS EMBARGO, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS02918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780150-1212
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780483/aaaacsea.tel
Line Count: 180
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dcadd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 2857
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3047229
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO DECISION TO LIFT THE EMBARGO
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dcadd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014